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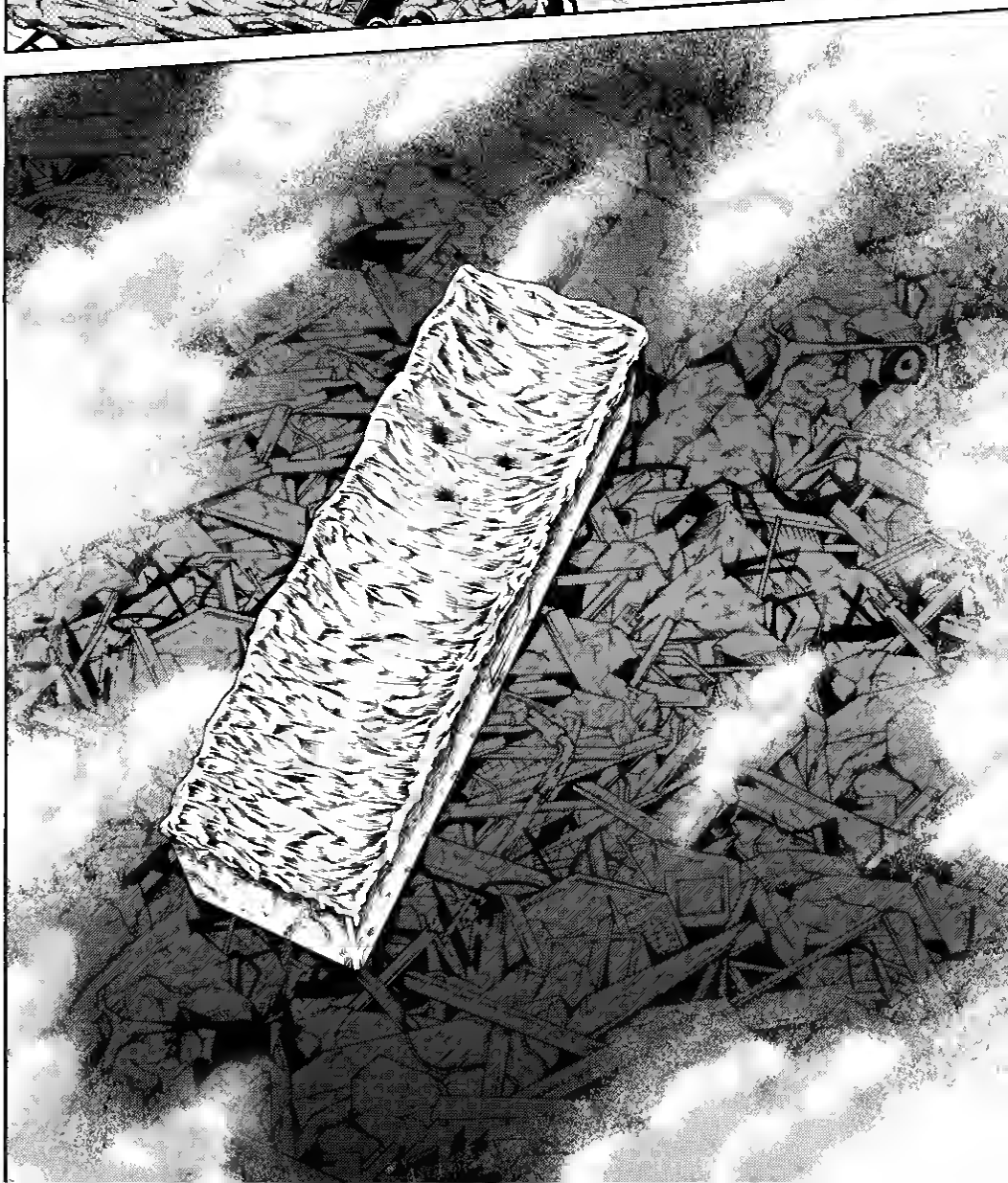
TYPESETTER: KUROSENAI
QUALITY CONTROL: KISS-SHOT

ZELPHY OF THE AION

BY SHUNJI ETOMOUA

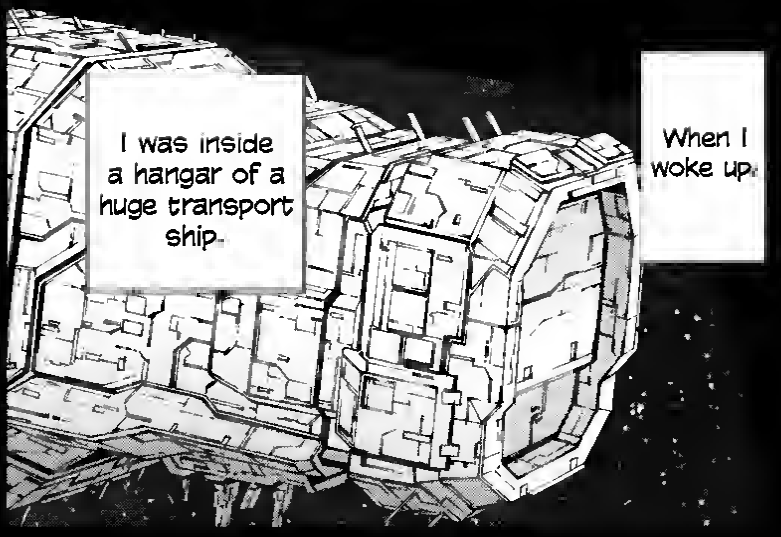
CHAPTER 16: ZELPHY

B TEAM,
DESCEND INTO THE IMPACT ZONE!!
HULL BREACH DETECTED ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE DROPPING..
ALL PRESENT PLEASE EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY!
WE ARE GOING TO CLOSE THIS SECTION
ep.010



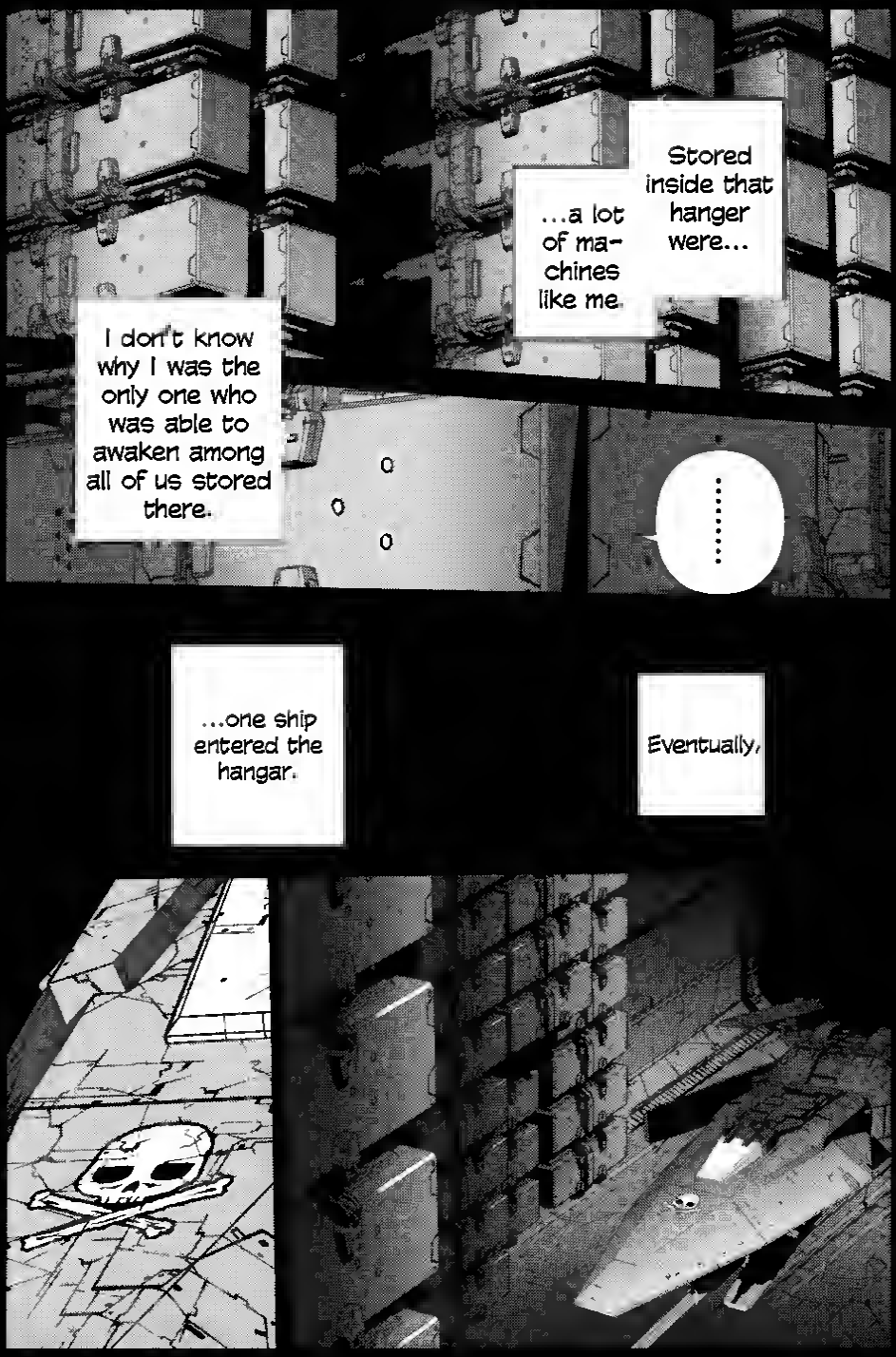
My name is Picopico.
Lysja's friend.

I'm an AI Multi-purpose Battery Unit that supplies energy to tanks, battleships and other things.
I'm not so easy to break; I have strengthened armor.


I was inside a hangar of a huge transport ship.
When I woke up.

PICO.

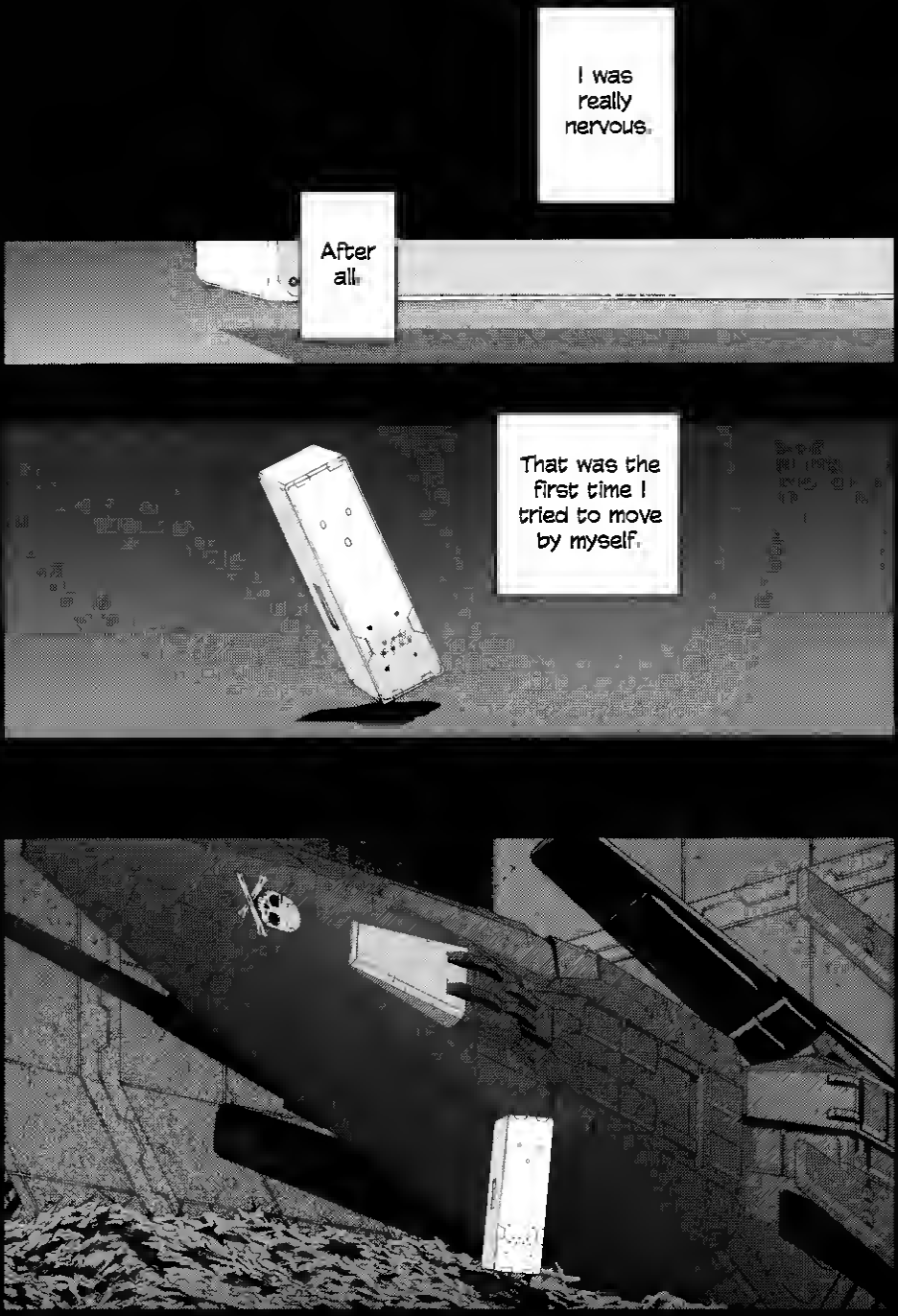
IS ANYONE ELSE AWAKE?
ANSWER ME, PLEASE!
HEY!

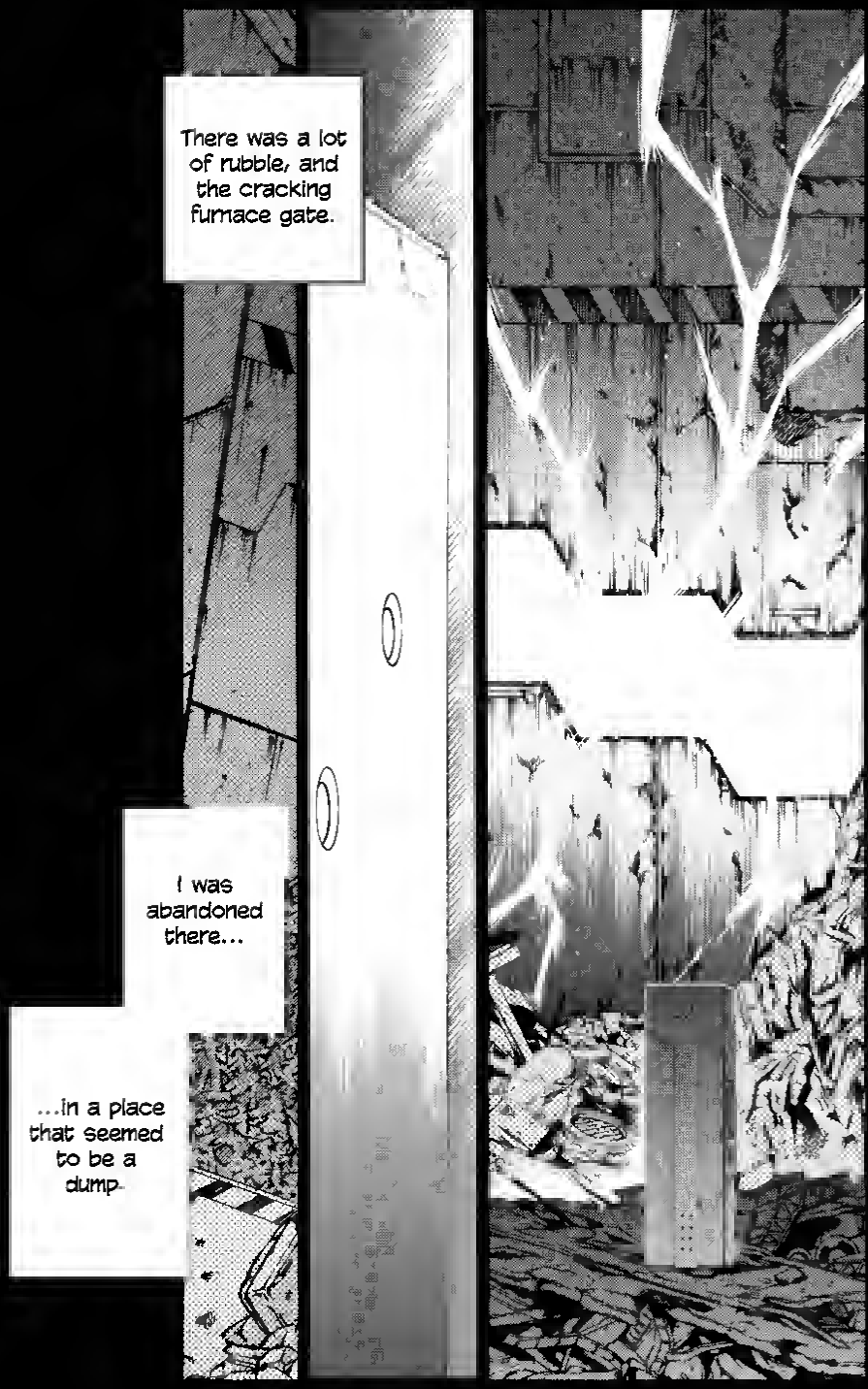

Stored inside that hanger were...
...a lot of machines like me.
I don't know why I was the only one who was able to awaken among all of us stored there.
.....
Eventually,
...one ship entered the hangar.

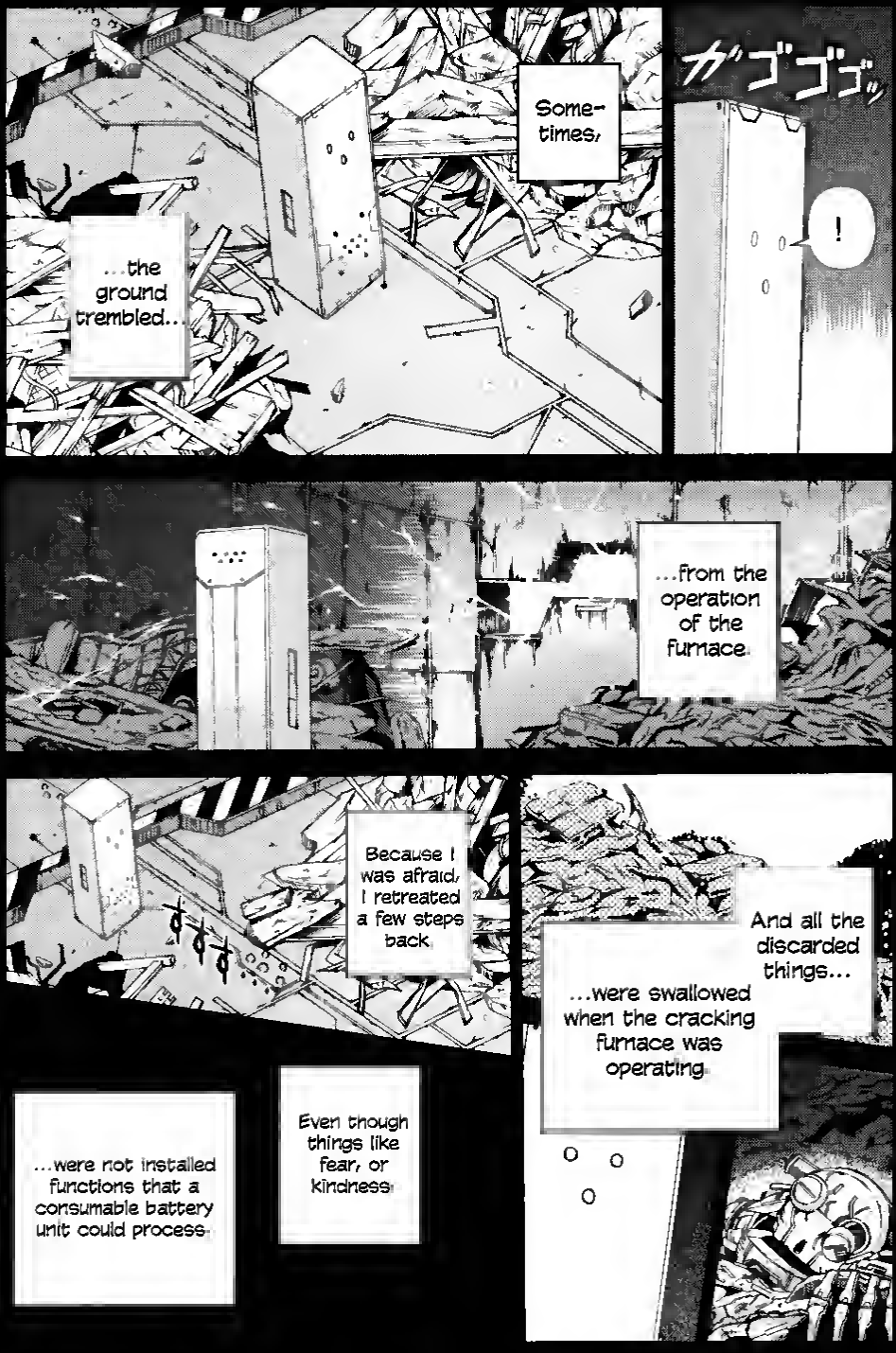
...it began to move towards somewhere.
...and, after bringing me inside,
That ship pulled me out...
I tried to talk with whoever was piloting the ship.
...but they didn't reply.
PICOPICO!
PICO.
And, with the ship in that state, somehow it seemed like it was just floating in space.
...the ship I was in stopped.
And then, after a while...

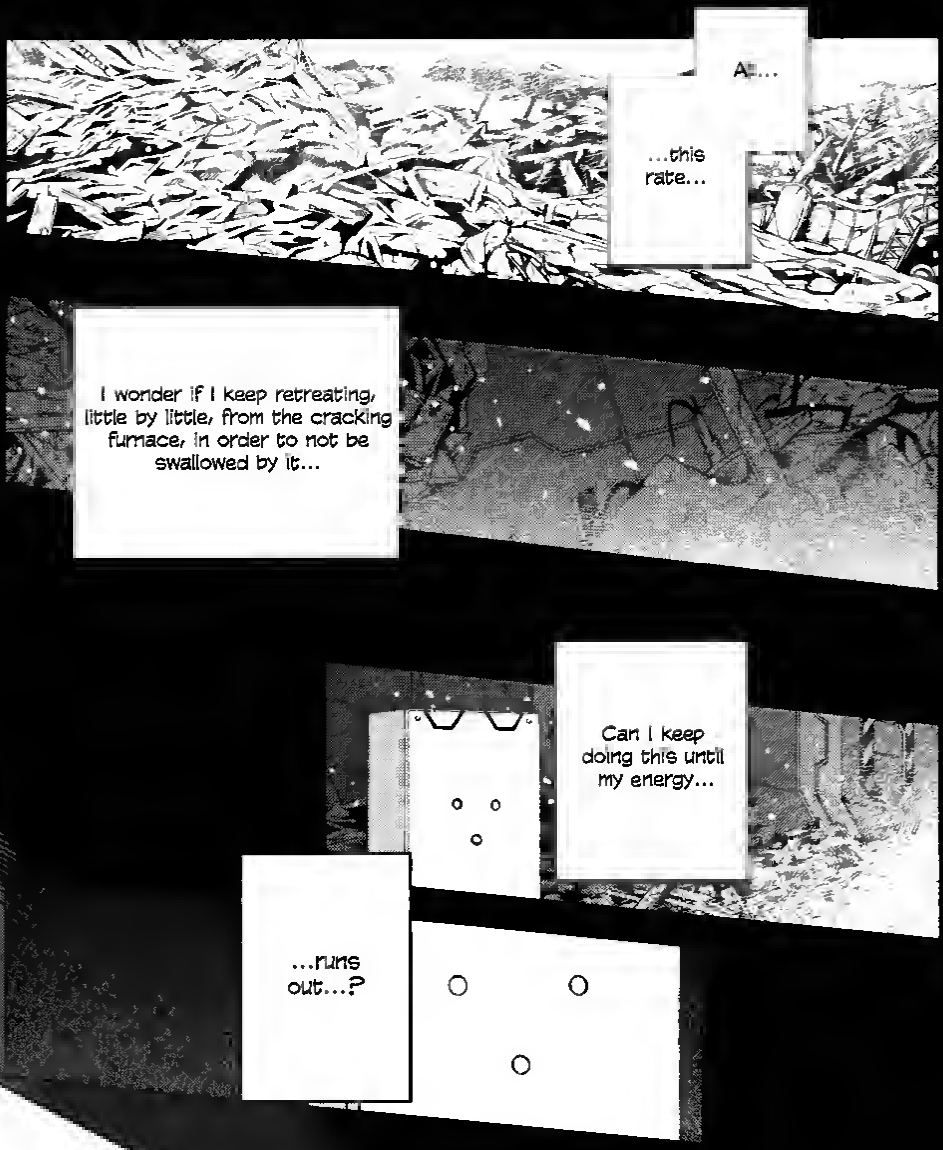
52104 hours after the engine stopped.
...the H.S Troops arrived in the Hangar.
BUNO18000-58712182323...
THERE'S NO DOUBT.
IT'S THAT.
After they inspected me,
they left the hangar.
And so,
the ship started to move again.

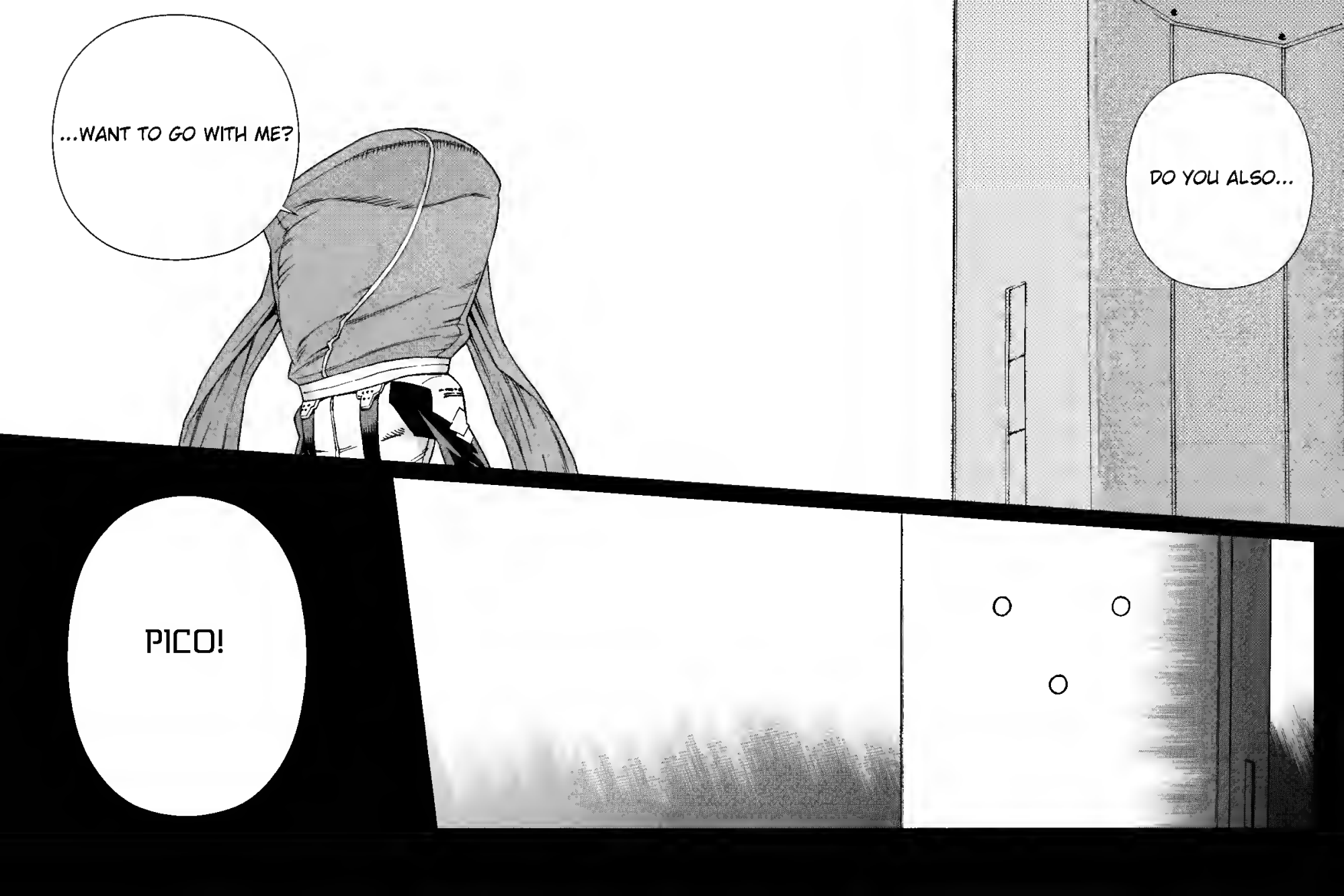
It seemed like the ship was being towed by the army.
69 hours later...
Due to a sudden impact,
the mecha arm of the Hangar broke.
And I crashed into the wall.
There is a strong energy reading right outside the ship.
We've arrived somewhere with gravity.
Where am I?


I was really nervous.
After all,
That was the first time I tried to move by myself.

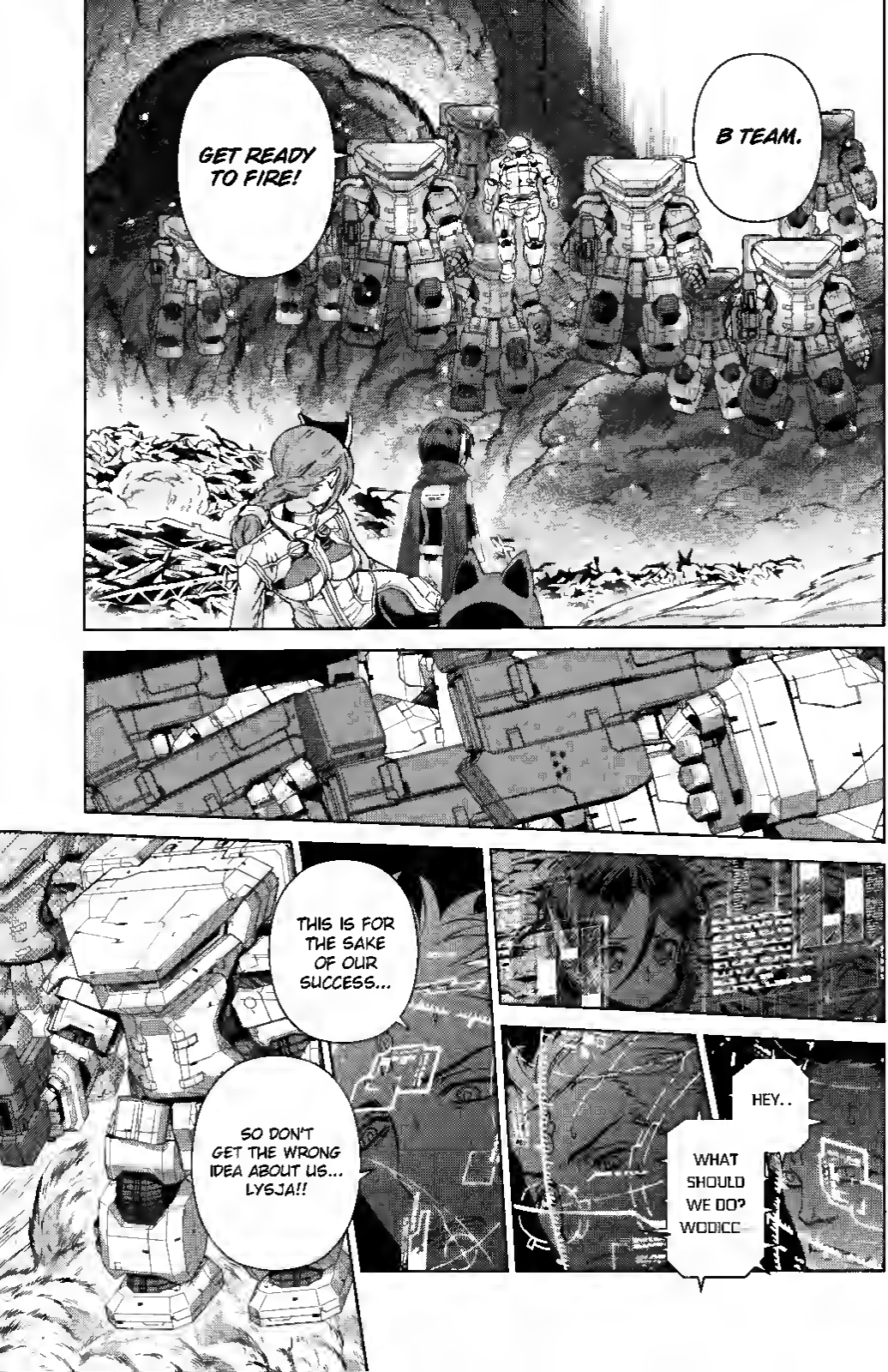

There was a lot of rubble, and the cracking furnace gate.
I was abandoned there...
...in a place that seemed to be a dump.


Some-
times,
...the ground trembled...
ガゴゴゴ
!
...from the operation of the furnace.
Because I was afraid, I retreated a few steps back.
...were swallowed when the cracking furnace was operating.
And all the discarded things...
...were not installed functions that a consumable battery unit could process.
Even though things like fear, or kindness.

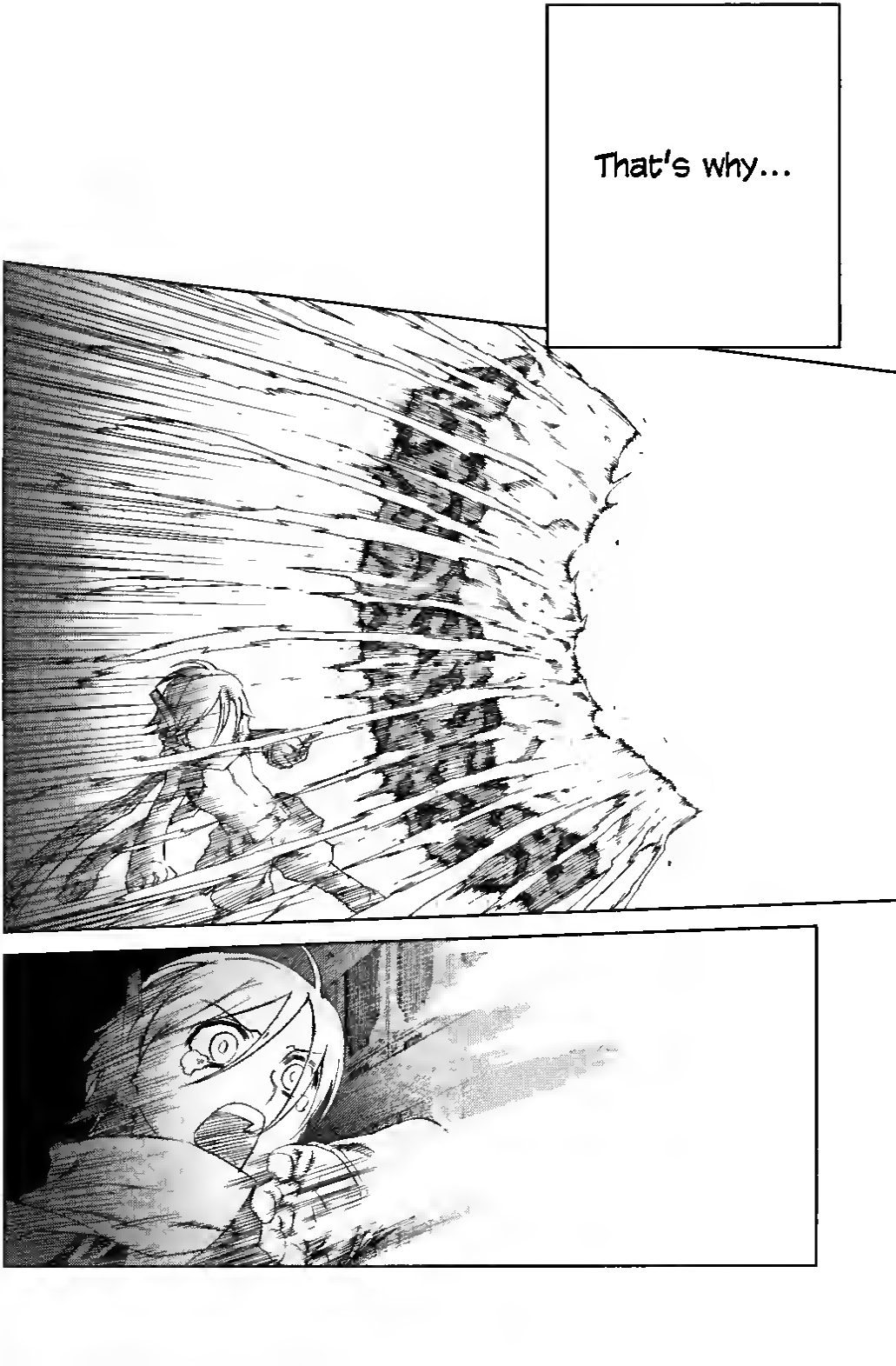

At...
...this rate...
I wonder if I keep retreating, little by little, from the cracking furnace, in order to not be swallowed by it...
Can I keep doing this until my energy...
...runs out...?

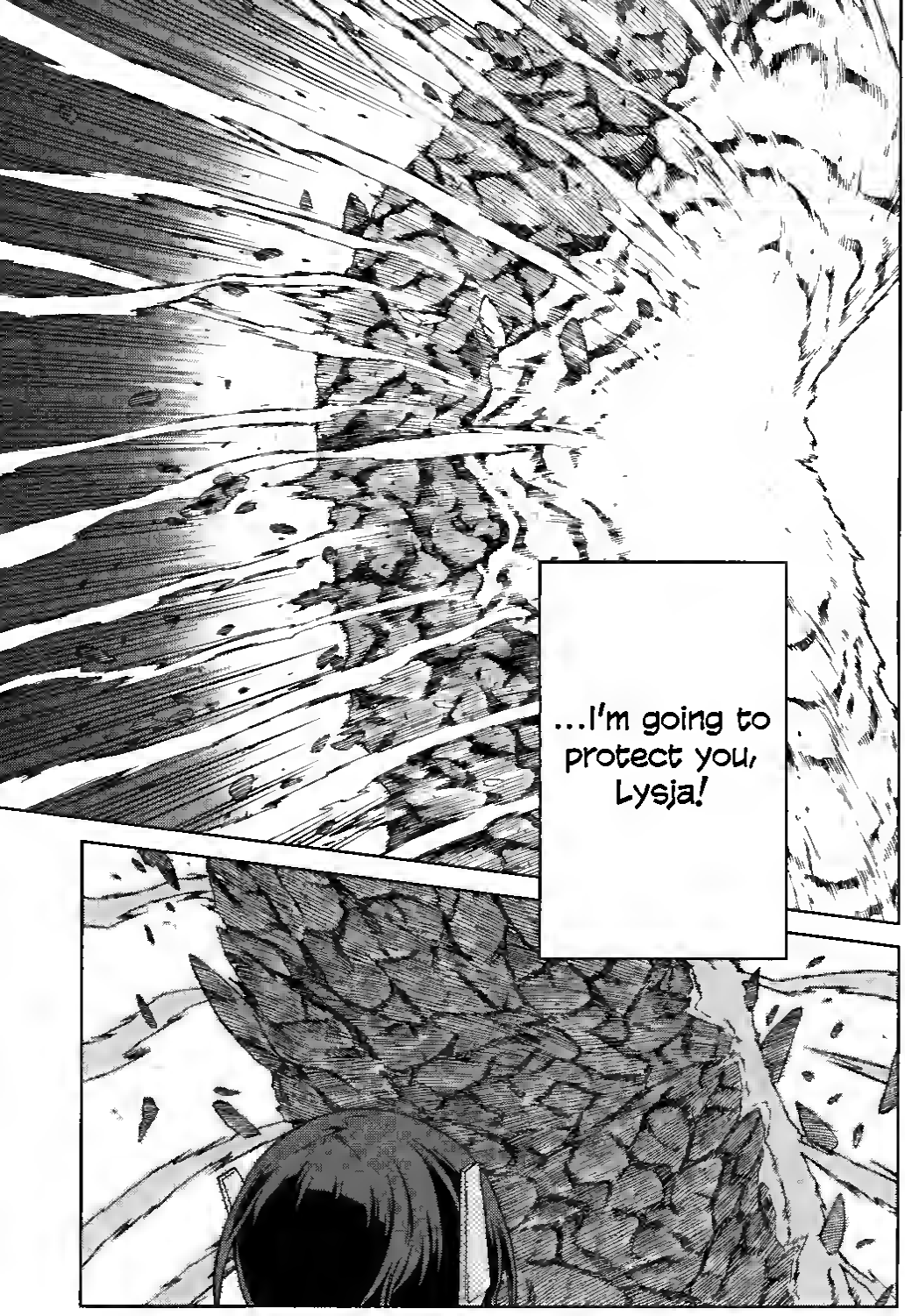

...WANT TO GO WITH ME?
DO YOU ALSO...
PICO!

PICO...
PI...
PICO-PICO!
DON'T SAY THAT, PICO-PICO!
WE ARE GOING TO RETURN TOGETHER!!
PICO...
PICOPICO...
HEY! LOOK AT THAT, LYSIA!!

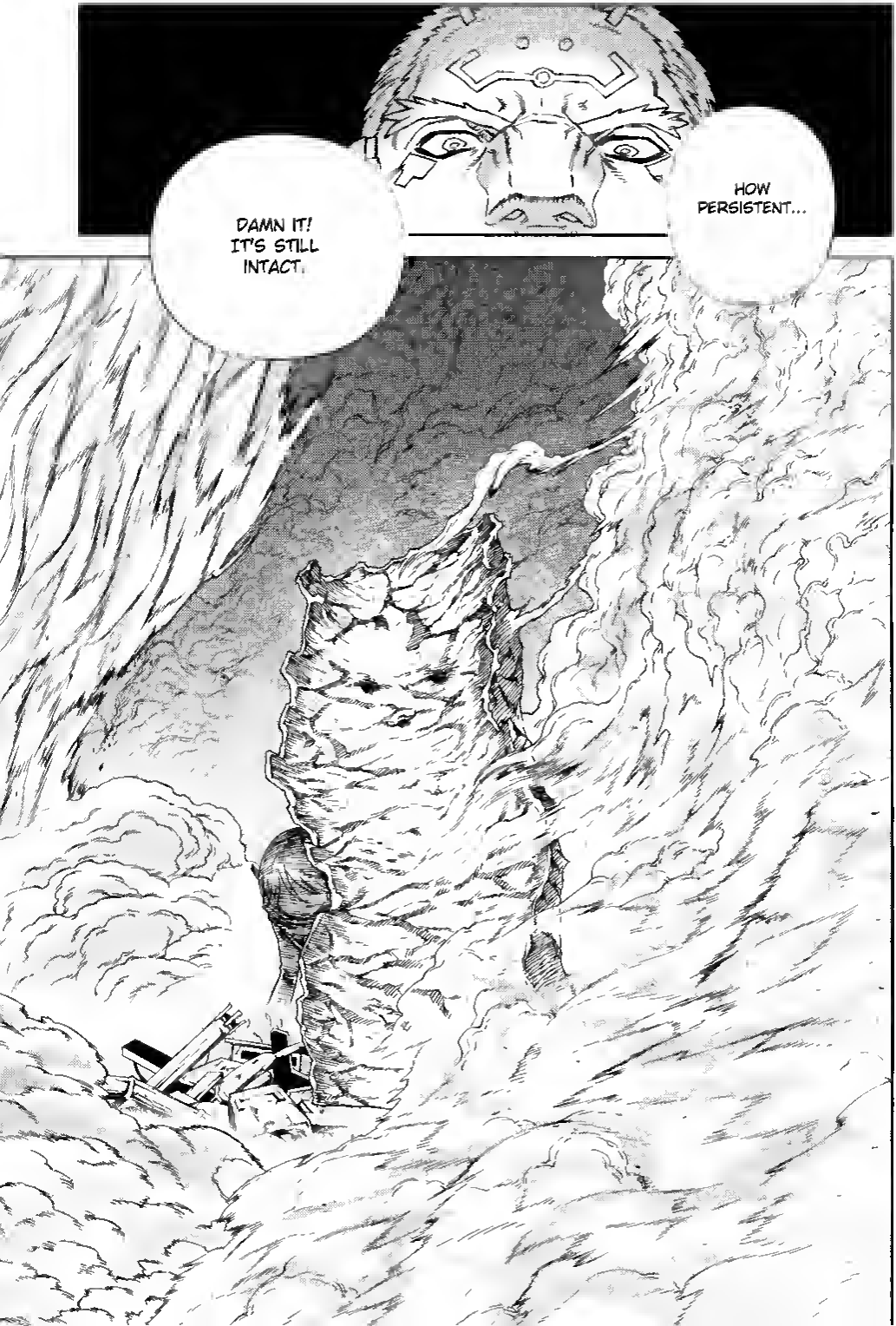

B TEAM.
GET READY TO FIRE!
THIS IS FOR THE SAKE OF OUR SUCCESS...
SO DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA ABOUT US... LYSJA!!
HEY..
WHAT SHOULD WE DO? WODICC

Lysja took me away...
...from that cracking furnace...
He is...
...my friend.
I'm no longer...
...alone...


That's why...


...I'm going to protect you, Lysja!

!!
WELL, WITH THIS, ALL IS NOW SETTLED...

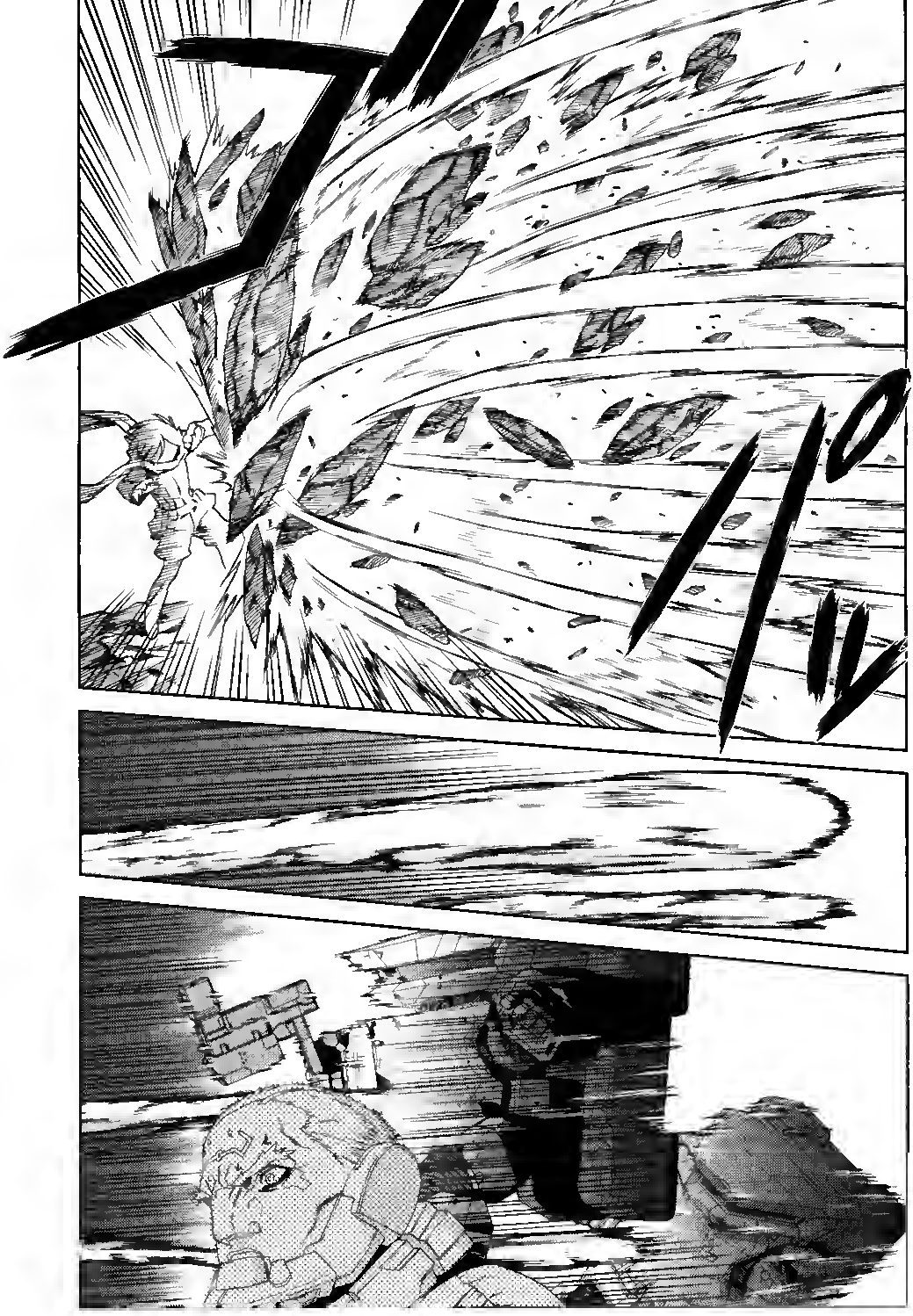

DAMN IT! IT'S STILL INTACT.
HOW PERSISTENT...

PICO-
PICO!!!

PICO-
PICO...
ANSWER ME,
PLEASE!
PICO-
PICO!!
PLEASE...!!

!
ALL TROOPS!
BUT... IF WE DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
PREPARE TO USE THE MAXIMUM POWER OF THE ANOJIM PULSE BLASTER!!
DO IT! THAT'S AN ORDER!
WE'LL BLOW AWAY THIS ENTIRE SECTION!
WE MUST GO THAT FAR IN ORDER TO EXTERMINATE THEM!

WE ARE GOING TO FIRE ALL AT ONCE,
...SO YOU'D BETTER FLEE AS QUICK AS YOU CAN.
IF YOU DON'T, YOU'LL BE KILLED BY THE MASS OF SUPER ENERGY, TOO!!
READY...
FIRE...!



THAT CANNOT BE...
WE CANNOT LET...
...THAT BE RELEASED FROM THE AION!
!?

UGGHH?!!

Zelphy